

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 151230Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3102

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: RISING TOLL OF TERRORISM

REF: A) BA-6675, B) BA-6730

1. CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND EXTREMIST ELEMENTS SEEM TO HAVE REACHED HIGHEST LEVELS YET DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS IN OCT. THE RESULTS, ACCORDING TO NEWS MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT REPORTS, ARE HIGH DEATH TOLLS FOR THE TERRORISTS AND A WEAKENING OF THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE TERRORIST OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATION. REPORTEDLY, DURING SEPARATE ACTIONS LAST WEEK (OCT 5 THROUGH 11) TWO HIGH-RANKING ERP CHIEFTAINS WERE KILLED. THE TERRORISTS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT COWERING IN DARK CORNERS. INSTEAD OF THE USUAL HIT-AND-RUN SHOOTING ATTACKS ON POLICE STATIONS OR OTHER SECURITY INSTALLATIONS, THE TERRORISTS LAST WEEK TRIED IN FORCE TO TAKE CONTROL OF TWO SUCH FACILITIES. ALTHOUGH THE TERRORISTS MAY HAVE SUFFERED HIGH CASUALTIES INDICATED IN NEWS MEDIA AND GOA ANNOUNCEMENTS, THIS SO FAR DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE WEAKENED THEIR DETERMINATION OR ABILITY TO CARRY THE FIGHT HOME TO THE GOVERNMENT.

2. NEW SOURCES TALLY AT LEAST SEVEN MAJOR CLASHES BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND EXTREMEISTS SINCE OCT 1. MORE THAN 110
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PEOPLE WERE REPORTED KILLED, OF WHICH OVER 85 WERE IDENTIFIED

AS TERRORISTS. THE OCT 5 FORMOSA ATTACK PRODUCED OVER 40 CASUALTIES (SEE REF A). THE REPORTED KILLING IN TUCUMAN PROVINCE OF JORGE CARLOS MOLINA (OCT 9), CALLED THE ARCHITECT OF THE ERP MOVEMENT THERE, AND MANUEL NEGRIN (OCT 10), IDENTIFIED AS ERP SECOND-IN-COMMAND IN TUCUMAN, ARE EXPECTED TO UPSET TERRORIST OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATION IN THE PROVINCE.

3. DURING THE SAME TIME FRAME, GUERRILLA UNITS IN TWO SEPARATE OPERATIONS REPORTEDLY LAID SIEGE TO POLICE STATION IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. THE ATTACKERS WERE REPELLED IN BOTH CASES AND SECURITY FORCES GAVE CHASE.

4. SUNDAY NIGHT (OCT 12) DINNER GUEST AT A FLORENCIO VARELA RESTAURANT WERE STUNNED WHEN FOUR MEN IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS POLICE MACHINEGUNNED FOUR PATRONS AT A TABLE. THE FOUR WERE IDENTIFIED AS RIGHT-WINGERS: EDUARDO ANIBAL FROMIGUE, EX-METAL WORKERS UNION (UOM) BODYGUARD, AND HIS WIFE AND TWO PERONIST ACTIVISTS. FROMIGUE'S WIFE, IN CRITICAL CONDITION, IS THE ONLY SURVIVOR. FROMIGUE IS REPORTEDLY A SUPPORTER OF LORENZO MIGUEL, WHO WAS RECENTLY ACCUSED OF RESCUING FROMIGUE FROM CHARGES INVOLVING A SHOOTING WITH POLICE.
HILL

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